

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An expandable platter/tray that holds dishes, trays, etc. The extendable structure ~~comprises~~ comprising a pair of box-type frames ~~a frame within a frame~~, with each frame having a pair of parallel rails or tracks. The tracks of the ~~An~~ inner frame ~~tracks slide slides~~ within the tracks of the outer frame ~~frame's tracks~~. Thus the length of the entire structure can be fixed by inserting holding wires vertically through the holes in the tracks thereby preventing the tracks from moving relative to one another. All of the tracks have precisely spaced holes so that wires, which are in general shape of a "U", ~~straddles~~ straddle both sides of the tracks and ~~is~~ are inserted into the holes of the outer tracks and/or holes of the inner and outer tracks. The "U" shaped wires can hold the platters, plates, dishes, etc. from leaning on each other in the lengthwise direction, as well as fixing the movement of the frames relative to each other. The tracks are supported by legs. The bottom of the legs of the frames rest on glides ~~themselves~~ that glide in the direction perpendicular to the tracks. The tracks on which the glides rest are attached to the bottom of a cabinet. Thus the entire platter/tray structure, whose length has been fixed by the wires, is also free to glide outwards so that the platter tray can easily be seen and handled before being re-glided back into the cabinet. The invention allows an expandable platter tray to expand to within any size cabinet.

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EXAMINATION OF THE REFERENCES

(1) **U.S. Patent No. 5,121,681** to Chang, discloses an extendable bookshelf. FIGS 2 and 3, in particular, show the bookshelf in an extended mode(as compared with FIG. 1 that shows the bookshelf in a non-extended mode). As shown in FIG. 2 of Chang, a series of holes 14 are made in a base 10, and a slide 20, which fits within the base 10, also has holes 21 which correspond to the holes in the base. The degree of extension of the bookshelf is based upon placing a stay 40 (which is referred to at column 2, lines 5 – 6 as being U-shaped), the stay having a pair of legs 40 coupled by an arm 42 on which a cushioning sleeve 43 is placed to provide the user with some degree of comfort and grip when changing positions. When the inner slide 20 is moved out of the channel 12 of base 10 an L-shaped extension comprising a first limb 46 and a second limb 47 can engage in the holes 21 of the slide 20. There are also two stays 30 that are positioned across the shelf so as to provide an area in which the books can be stably secured to the shelf. It is clear from Chang that the stays are of sufficient length so that any of them could be pressed down through the holes of the base portion 10 and the slide.

(2) **U.S. Patent No. 5,330,063** to Remmers, discloses an organizer glide system, whereby a base frame 12 has a pair of support rails 14 attached thereon, the base frame being attached to the bottom of a wire basket organizer 16 which permits (as shown in FIGS. 9 and 10) the basket be slid in and out along the rails.

(3) **U.S. Patent No. 4,720,016** to Kay, discloses a closet storage system, whereby an extension 20 is extended from a bracket 10 and is held by E-Clip 40 to which a pin 52 (as best shown in Fig. 4) fits through the aligned holes in the E-Clip and those of the bracket and/or extension member 20.

(4) **U.S. Patent No. 4,410,093** to Chiariello et al., discloses a desk organizer for organizing papers and files having a series base members 12 that have slots 12J in which a plurality of wire dividers 22 are placed therein.

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on (5) **U.S. Patent No. 4,036,369** to Eisenberg, discloses an expandable rack which has (as shown In FIG. 1) a shelf means 12 consisting of an inner most section 14 and an outer shelf 16, both of which have flanged edges and receivably arranged within each other so as to permit telescopic extension.

(6) **U.S. Patent No. 6,021,908** to Mathews, discloses an extendable display shelf, which is best shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, and includes shelves 40 having bracket arms 42, which are individually secured to vertically extending space apart uprights 44, with the bracket arms 42 having outwardly extending teeth 46 to be received in the uprights. The bracket arms 42 include an extension 62 that is telescopically received within the bracket arm and via a spring detent 64 is urged into engagement with the linear holes 66 in the side of the bracket arm 42. The extension arm 62 is adjusted to the desired depth of the shelf by pushing the detent 64 through the hold 66 and moving the extension in or out.

(7) **U.S. Patent No. 3,760,744** to Cruckshank, discloses an "expansible" shelf addition comprising two telescoping sheet metal members, each member having a plurality of linear, equally close, spaced perforations, and wire-formed supporting end legs that are attached through the perforations. As shown in Figure 1, the sheet members can be adjusted to a specific length whereby a generally U-shaped center leg 15, referred to as a unitary wire formed member has upper free ends 44 and 45, which will extend through the perforations as shown in Figure 1 to lock the members in place.

(8) **U.S. Patent 2,946,458** to P. Du Boff et al., discloses reciprocating tray units, wherein a kitchen cabinet or cupboard 1 has a reciprocating tray unit 4 with rails 8, 10 extending along apposite sides of the cabinet. A tray member 22 is reciprocatively mounted on a base member 6 by a coupling 24 and can [be] slide and/or move[d] outwardly to a convenient position from the cabinet secured from a shelf C, and slide outwardly so that the cup B can be removed from the rack.

(9) **U.S. Patent 1,974,983** to H.A. Cook, discloses a cabinet shelf, whereby a shelf 18 can slide along a fixed rack 19 to permit access to items in the back of the cabinet shelf.

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(10) U.S. **Patent 1,095,073** to G.B. Bish, discloses a skit hanger for cabinets, whereby a plurality of resilient garment engaging members 30 are carried by a supporting member 23, wherein when a garment is desired to obtain from the case, a handle 36 is pulled and the slidably mounted garment supporting member drawn up far enough to get the desired garment.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to ~~the photographs initially to Photo 1~~ Figure 1, an Expandable Platter/Tray in accordance with the present invention, comprises an outer structure with two sets of parallel tracks (1), and a frame (2). There is an upper set of holes in the tracks (3) and a lower set of holes in the tracks (4). The tracks are connected by end pieces (5). The holes on the tracks are spaced at equal distances apart. The top track holes (3) are directly above the bottom track holes (4). ~~inner set of two tracks 3 within both sides of a frame 2, 4, 7, 8 and an outer set of two tracks 4, 7 which is also the frame. The frame and tracks are supported on both sides by legs 1, 2, 8. The inner tracks can be pulled out of the frame to fit the inner length of a cabinet. Both sets of tracks have holes 7 accurately spaced so that wires in the general shape of an inverted letter "U" can be pushed through the holes to stop relative movement between the inner and outer tracks while also serving to separate and hold plate/platter, etc. from movement in the Y direction. the tracks support plates from movement in the X direction.~~

Referring to ~~Photo~~ Figure 2, ~~the~~ there is shown an inner structure that slides within the outer structure. The two sets of parallel tracks are held together by end pieces (6). The holes in the tracks precisely match those holes of the outer structure so that no matter how much the inner structure is extended from the outer structure, pegs, or U-shaped pieces can be inserted in the holes. The pegs protrude through the top of the outer structure but not through the bottom of the outer structure. The pegs go into the holes of the inner structure but do not protrude through the inner structure. The distances of protrusions of the outer and the inner structure are such that the inserted pegs are all at the same height. There is a compartment (8) for the unused pegs (9) to be stored. ~~tracks are drawn outward of the frame in the Y direction. The length of extension depends on its desired fit in the kitchen cabinet. The U-shaped inverted wires would be inserted into the holes parallel to the tracks in the X direction to separate platter/trays, etc.~~

Referring to ~~Photo~~ Figure 3, the inner structure is partially inserted into the outer structure. Some pegs have been inserted and spaced to indicate a variety of distances apart. This would depend on the thickness of the dishes, plates, platters, etc...stacked between the rails. Once pegs are inserted into holes of the outer and the inner structure relative movement between

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the two are fixed. The pegs are removable so that the overall length of the combined structures can be changed. The dishes, plates, platters, etc...lean on the pegs in the direction of the length of the rails, while the distance between the rails prevents the dishes, etc...from rolling off in the direction perpendicular to the direction of the length of the rails. ~~mentioned legs of the frame are themselves mounted on glides represented by 5 and 6. The glides allow the entire frame holding platters/trays, etc. movement in the X direction. This serves as a "pull out" from the kitchen cabinet for easy access. The glides have means of being fastened to the floor of kitchen cabinet, such as holes 11 for screws. The inner rails have a "blocker" 9 to keep the ends of inner tracks from movement in the X direction.~~

Referring to Figure 4, this is the same as Figure 3, except that the legs (10) are shown in this embodiment.

BLACKLINED VERSION

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to Figure 1, an Expandable Platter/Tray in accordance with the present invention, comprises an outer structure with two sets of parallel tracks (1), and a frame (2). There is an upper set of holes in the tracks (3) and a lower set of holes in the tracks (4). The tracks are connected by end pieces (5). The holes on the tracks are spaced at equal distances apart. The top track holes (3) are directly above the bottom track holes (4).

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CLEAN VERSION